News Bulletins in Cuttack Doordarshan Kendra

1632. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in Cuttack Doordarshan Kendra News bulletins go without required visuals and inadequate visuals as ENG cameras are not available there;

(b) if so, what is the reason therefor; and

(c) by when the necessary equipments are likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) Doordarshan have deployed one ENG camera unit at Doordarshan Kendra, Cuttack for daily news coverages. The Kendra also at times meets its visual requirements through audio visual unit of the State Government of Orissa.

News item captioned "poor phone service hits H P. Tourism"

1633. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'poor phone service hits H.P. Tourism' published in the Tribune dated 13th June, 1990:

(b) if so, what are the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the telephone service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is true that:

(i) Trunk services to Manali are sometimes disrupted due to natural hazards like heavy rains, snow and landslides.

(ii) There is a electro-mechanical exchange of 6600 lines working at Shimla which is very old;

(iii) Rampur was connected via a portable satellite earth terminal temporarily. This has been withdrawn.

(c) In additional to normal measure to improve the services provision has been made in the 8th Five Year Plan to:

(i) provide stable communication satellite link for manali.

(ii) replace the existing electromechanical exchange at Shimla by electronic exchange during 1991-92.

(iii) commissioning of the satellite earth station at Rampur again.

Meeting of National Integration Council

1634. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) when the meeting of the National Integration Council was held last and when the next meeting is likely to be held; and

(b) the progress made in respect of the schemes suggested by the Council to promote national integration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Last meeting of National Integration Council was held on 11.4.1990 and the next meeting is scheduled to be held on 22.9.1990.

(b) In the last meeting a Resolution was adopted unanimously by the National Integration Council and a

copy of the same is attached. (See below). In pursuance of para 2 of the Resolution, a Committee on promotion of communal harmony has been set up to evolve a definite plan of action to deal with the menace of communalism.

Resolution adopted by the National Integration Council on 11th April, 1990

The National Integration Council, at its meeting held at New Delhi on 11th April, 1990, expresses its grave concern over the escalation in terrorist violence in Punjab and the anti-national activities of secessionists in the Kashmir Valley, the emergence of forces of separatism in Assam and the increase in communal tension in the country. This meeting also notes with anxiety the re-emergence, with greater severity, of destabilising forces which are operating in the garb of terrorism, communal fanaticism and separatism which are receiving assistance from across the border.

2. After reviewing the communal situation in the country, the Council resolves to set up a Committee to recommend a plan of action to effectively counter this growing menace.

3. In regard to Ram Janma Bhoomi —Babri Masjid controversy, the Council appeals to all concerned to exercise utmost restraint and seek an amicable solution of the problem as early as possible.

4. The Council reaffirms the resolve of the nation and the determination of all political parties and groups to defend the freedom, unity, integrity and secular character of the nation It also reiterates its resolve to mobilise all nationalist, democratic and secular forces to meet the challenge of violence, secessionism, communalism and fundamentalism.

5. The Council affirms the resolve of the people to meet the challenges facing the country's unity, integrity and its secular democratic polity in a united and determined manner.

Indian assistance to Iran for earthquake victims

1635. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have extended any assistance to Iran for the earthquake victims; and

(b) if so, the details of the assistance extended for the earthquake victims in that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH): (a) and (b) Government have provided humanitarian assistance worth Rs. 1 crore to Iran in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake which struck the northern Iranian provinces of Gilan and Zanjan on June 21, 1990. The emergency relief supplies consisted of essential drugs and medicines, blankets, bedsheets, hurricane lamps, towels, soap cakes, milk powder and candles. These supplies were airlifted to Iran on 26th, 28th and 30th June, 1990.

Property tax in Delhi

1636. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme of collecting house tax through payment of ten years' tax in lump sum was introduced by the Delhi Municipal Corporation;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme, the number of house owners who availed of the scheme and the amount collected during the last three years;

(c) whether Corporation had started through recent press advertisements that certificates would be issued to persons who paid house tax under the scheme; and

(d) if so, the number of persons to whom such certificates have been